

REMARKS

The Official Action of November 29, 2007, has been carefully reviewed. The claims in the application are now only claims 2 and 3, both of which have not been rejected on the basis of any prior art, and **applicant believes that the present application should now be in condition for allowance consistent with what is stated in the Official Action.** Favorable consideration and early formal allowance are respectfully urged.

Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicant's papers filed under Section 119 is noted.

Claim 1-3 have been rejected under the second paragraph of Section 112. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nevertheless, in deference to the examiner's views, a certain cosmetic amendments have been made to place the claims in better form for U.S. practice. The offensive language noted in claim 1 has been deleted. Clearly, no limitations have been added and none are intended with respect to the language of claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form eliminating what the Office Action refers to as negative limitations.

Withdrawal of the rejection under Section 112 is in order and is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been rejected as anticipated by Ritchie et al USP 6,371,456. While applicants do not necessarily agree, claim 1 has been deleted without prejudice to applicants' rights to pursue this matter and/or other claims broader than claims 2 or 3 in a continuing application, if applicants choose to do so, applicants in such a case relying on sections 120 and 119. At the present time, however, applicant need not address this rejection in view of the deletion of claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 have been indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants accordingly understand that these claims are deemed by the PTO to be free of any known prior art, i.e. to define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103. Applicants are accordingly proceeding in reliance thereof.

The prior art documents of record and not relied upon by the PTO have been noted, along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently

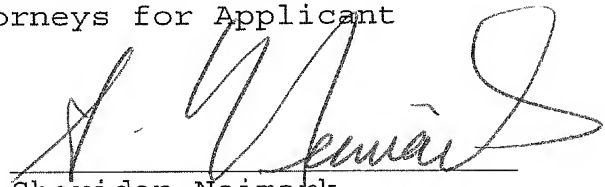
material to warrant their application against any of
applicants' claims.

Applicants believe that all issues raised in the
Official Action have been addressed above in a manner that
should lead to patentability of the present application.
Favorable consideration and early formal allowance are
respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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